



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1977

Class Agents

Greg Birk gregbirk77@gmail.com

Herm Haffner hermhaffner@yahoo.com

John & Kathy Kerezy, 440-364-1133 or johnkprof@gmail.com

Alumni and Parent Relations Office

301 W. Wabash Ave.

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

765-361-6360

alumni@wabash.edu

wabash.edu

May 2021

Hi Fellow Class of '77ers,

On Saturday, Wabash celebrated its 183rd commencement in the new Little Giant Stadium on campus. Graduates of 2020, who didn't get to have their commencement due to Covid-19, were invited to participate as well. Below is a link to a website with pictures and information.

Commencements are days where we celebrate both beginnings and milestones. Some of the most cherished photos of my time at Wabash are pictures of my family and me at our commencement.

What made this ceremony unique was that in academic year 2020-2021, despite Covid-19, Wabash continued to hold classes in person. Faculty and staff were able to collaborate with the student leadership to successfully implement safety protocols which virtually stopped the spread of the Coronavirus on campus. So the Class of 2021 was remarkable in that, while its counterparts all over the U.S. closed their doors, the "Academic Halls of Crawfordsville" stayed open. "This is how we fight" became a tagline to accompany our famous "Wabash Always Fights" motto.

That's nothing new to us. Last month on the college's eighth "Annual Day of Giving" alumni and friends of the college broke a record by pledging \$1.3 million to alma mater. And the "Giant Steps" campaign has also surpassed the \$200 million mark in donations! (Again, links below.)

In part due to Covid-19, Wabash has opened up a lot of resources on the Internet for students, alumni and parents/friends. You can see this by clicking on the "Whenever Wherever Wabash" link just below:

<https://www.wabash.edu/www/>

One event coming up SOON is an "After the Bell" learning program. Details are just below.

After the Bell: *The Night of the Hunter* with Professor Matt Weedman

Join Professor Matt Weedman for the first film discussion of the *After the Bell* series. The event is being held virtually on Tuesday, May 25, beginning at 7 p.m.

If you haven't screened it, *The Night of the Hunter* is a 1955 American thriller film directed by Charles Laughton and starring Robert Mitchum (in his best performance ever in my humble opinion), Shelley Winters, and Lillian



Gish. A strong crowd pleaser that most have not seen, the film is filled with interesting film and art history. Active participation is encouraged and attendees should view the film prior to participating. The film is available on Amazon Prime Video [here](#).

Sign up in advance through the link here: <https://www.wabash.edu/events/afterthebell-weedman/>

BIG BASH 2021

After nearly 15 months of being closed, Wabash is opening its campus to visitors on **Saturday, June 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Please plan to bring your family, walk through buildings, and tour the new Little Giant Stadium. We'll have the Bon Appetit food truck serving lunch. You can register at <https://www.wabash.edu/events/bigbash-2021/>.

Some Campus News

- 183rd Commencement was May 15, news/photos are here: https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11721
- Giant Steps Campaign reaches \$200 million: <http://giantsteps.wabash.edu/>
- Wabash named Best Value by The Princeton Review; retains #1 Alumni Ranking: https://www.wabash.edu/news/displaystory.cfm?news_ID=11707

DATES TO SAVE

- Homecoming Weekend is September 16-17-18.
- Big feature for our Class is the Hall of Fame induction ceremony for our classmate GREG BIRK (long overdue) on September 17 and the dedication of the new Little Giant Stadium on Saturday, Sept. 18. Please come if you can! Herm and I will put together a special activity for our class in conjunction with Greg's induction.
- Big Bash 2022, the 45th anniversary of our graduation, will be on June 3-4-5, 2022.



Were you in this picture? Hope you'll plan to be in the next one when we have a class reunion in 2022!

This class letter is different. It's the first one I've penned since I was diagnosed with Stage 3 bladder cancer in January, and then with Stage 3A renal failure in February.

While it's not difficult for me to write, there's a powerful sense one gets knowing now that there's a finite "end date" so to speak. Death comes to us with a probability of 100 percent. For me, this has caused an acceleration of end-of-life plans (living will, power of attorney, revising the last will & testament, etc.) You can read about and follow me as I journal about some aspects of it at www.jkerezy.wordpress.com

Wabash's annual giving cycle always ends on June 30. If you haven't done so already, hope you'll consider making a generous gift to Alma Mater. www.wabash.edu/give Next calendar year we'll begin the countdown to our 50th anniversary in 2027. Do be thinking of Wabash as you too do will and estate planning.

When college days are past, as long as life shall last, our greatest joy will be to shout the chorus.

Best for Wabash Always,

John Kerezy